

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7025

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH OPIUM POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: (A) ANKARA 6839 (B) ANKARA 6840 (C) ANKARA 6893

1. ALTHOUGH THERE IS APPARENT RIFT IN CABINET OVER EXPANSION OF  
POPPY PLANTING AREA, GOT OFFICIALS SAY LICENSES FOR PLANTING  
ARE BEING ISSUED ONLY IN SEVEN PROVINCES AS IN PREVIOUS  
YEAR.

2. IN AN INTERVIEW IN MILLIYET SEPTEMBER 10, MINAGRICULTURE OZAL  
OF NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) ANSWERED PRESS SPECULATION  
REGARDING RIFT BETWEEN NSP AND COALITION PARTNER JUSTICE PARTY (JP)  
ON AREA TO BE PERMITTED FOR POPPY CULTIVATION: "THERE IS NO  
DISAGREEMENT ON THIS (POPPY QUESTION) BUT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE  
OF APPROACH ON THE SUBJECT. ON JUNE 24, THE MINISTRY OF  
AGRICULTURE HAD PRESENTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WITH A  
DRAFT DECREE WHICH WOULD HAVE EXTENDED THE AREA OF POPPY CULTIVA-  
TION TO NINE PROVINCES BY ADDING AMASYA AND MALATYA. WHILE THE  
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DRAFT DECREE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SIGNED AND HAVE GONE INTO EFFECT

BY JULY 1, IT HAS NOT BEEN SIGNED YET. FOR THIS REASON, AND ACCORDING TO THE APPLICABLE LAW, LAST YEAR'S DECREE IS STILL IN FORCE AND THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAS TAKEN THE NECESSARY MEASURES FOR THE PLANTING TO BE DONE AGAIN IN THE SEVEN PROVINCES UNDER LAST YEAR'S CONDITIONS AND HAS BEGUN ISSUING LICENSES. LICENSES WILL BE ISSUED UNTIL OCTOBER 1."

3. ON SEPTEMBER 11 MILLIYET AND BARIS CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH DEPUTY PRIMER FEYZIOGLU IN WHICH FEYZIOGLU STATED: "ACCORDING TO PARAGRAPH 18 OF LAW 1470 (OF AUG 18, 1971), IF A NEW DECISION IS NOT TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE REGULATIONS (FOR POPPY CULTIVATION) OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S DECREE WILL BE APPLIED. IF RESTRICTIONS WERE TO BE MADE IN THE PLANTING REGION IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NECESSARY TO ANNOUNCE THIS AT LEAST ONE YEAR AHEAD. THE RULES IN THE DECREE THAT WAS ISSUED IN 1974 CONCERNING POPPY CULTIVATION ARE EXACTLY THE ONES IN FORCE TODAY.. THIS SUBJECT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT IT CANNOT BE EXPLOITED IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL DISPUTES."

4. SOURCES IN SOIL PRODUCTS OFFICE (TMO) HAVE CONFIRMED TO MISSION OFFICER THAT MINAGRICULTURE HAS ORDERED TMO TO LICENSE POPPY FARMERS ON BASIS OF LAST YEAR'S DECREE. THUS LICENSING IS PROCEEDING FOR TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DECARES (FORTY NINE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY ACRES) OF POPPIES WITH MAXIMUM OF FIVE DECARES PER FARMER. (AVERAGE ALLOTMENT PER FARMER IS EXPECTED TO BE AS LAST YEAR, TWO DECARES.) CULTIVATION TO BE LICENSED IN SAME AREAS AS LAST YEAR; PROVINCES OF AFYON, BURDUR, DENIZLI, ISPARTA, KUTAHYA, AND USAK WITH FOUR WESTERN DISTRICTS OF KONYA PROVINCE.

5. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM THE LEGAL DEADLINE OF JULY 1 FOR A NEW DECREE, THE NEARNESS OF THE OCTOBER PLANTING SEASON MAKES EXPANSION OF POPPY AREA THIS FALL AN INCREASINGLY LESS LIKELY PROSPECT. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE NSP'S DECLARED INTEREST IN EXPANDING THE AREA, WE BELIEVE A NEW DECREE ADDING MALATYA AND AMASYA PROVINCES AS POPPY GROWING AREAS CANNOT BE RULED OUT SO LONG AS THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT CONTINUES. THE PENDING CONGRESSIONAL VOTE ON THE ARMS EMBARGO COULD BE A HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN A DECISION TO EXPAND. ONE STRONG ARGUMENT AGAINST EXPANSION REPORTEDLY IS THE POSSIBLE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON CONFIDENTIAL

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CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE ARMS EMBARGO, AND THIS ARGUMENT WOULD BE DESTROYED BY A HOUSE VOTE TO SUSTAIN THE EMBARGO. ON THE OTHER HAND, A POSITIVE VOTE WOULD ALSO REMOVE ONE PRESSING CONSTRAINT AGAINST EXPANSION; HOWEVER, IT WOULD LEAVE THE GOVT WITH A LONG-TERM INTEREST IN AVOIDING PROVOCATION OF THE U.S. ON THE POPPY ISSUE.  
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